THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (No. 39 of 1987) confers statutory status on Lok Adalats. The salient features of the same are indicated in the statement placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(1) Lok Adalats are to be organised by the State and District Legal Services Authorities and shall consist of such judicial officers of the area and such other members possessing such qualification and experience as may be prescribed;

(2) A Lok Adalat shall have jurisdiction to determine and arrive at a settlement between the parties to a dispute in respect of any matter falling within the jurisdiction of any Civil, Criminal or Revenue Court or any Tribunal constituted under the Law for the time being in force in the area for which a Lok Adalat is organised;

(3) Every "Award" of the Lok Adalat shall be deemed to be a decree of a Civil Court or Order of any other court or Tribunal, as may be appropriate, and where a compromise or settlement has been arrived at, by a Lok Adalat in a suit or proceeding, the court fee paid in such suit or proceeding shall be refunded in a manner provided under the Court Fee Act, 1870;

(4) Every "'Award" of Lok Adalat shall be final and binding on all the parties to the dispute and no appeal shall lie to any court against the award;

(5) The Lok Adalat shall, for the purpose of holding any determination under the Act have the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, while trying a suit in respect of the following matters, namely :—

(a) the summoning and enforcing the attendance of any witness and examining him on oath;

(b) the discovery and production of any document;

(c) the reception of evidence on affidavits;

(d) the requisitioning of any public record or document or copy of such record or document from any court or office; and

(e) such other matters as may be prescribed.

(6) All proceedings before a Lok Adalat shall be deemed to be judicial proceedings within the meaning of Section 193, 219 and 228 of the Indian Penal Code and every Lok Adalat shall be deemed to be a civil court for the purpose of Sec. 195 and Chapter XXVI of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

Discovery of a New Kind of Cheap Petrol

4305. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report that appeared in prominent Malayalam daily 'Deepika' on the 30th June, 1988 about the discovery of a new kind of cheap petrol made out of waste material by one Mr. Babu Matheu of Idukki district in Kerala; and

(b) if so, whether any enquiry into the claim was conducted and what are the findings of the report in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Shri Babu Matheu, a Keralite youth, has claimed to have achieved success in producing synthetic petrol.

(b) CSIR scientists have been asked to verify the claim and examine the product.

Defence Purchases from Foreign Countries

4306. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the names of the countries with whom we have contracts for defence purchases and the details thereof for the last three years including the amounts for which defence equipments have been purchased from different countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): It will not be in the interest of national security to divulge the information sought.

Assistance to Orissa Government of Social Security Scheme

4307. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the financial assistance that have been provided to the Orissa Government for social security schemes for the weaker sections ;

(b) what are the social security schemes that are being undertaken or proposed to be under taken in Orissa State; and

(c) the number of families which are likely to be benefited in the State during the next three years ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI); (a) The financial assistance from the Centre to the Government of Orissa for the State Plans Schemes is given as block grant.

(b) and (c) The major Social Security Schemes being undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by the Centre for weaker sections in the country including Orissa are :—

(i) Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme,

(ii) Hut Insurance Scheme, for poor families in rural areas,

(iii) Group Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers.

Many poor families in Orissa would benefit from these schemes.

Projects under implementation in Orissa

4308. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) what are the centrally sponsored engineering projects under implementation in Orissa :

(b) whether the delay in completion of those projects is leading to cost escalation; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken to expedite the execution of those projects ?